

# The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 9, No. 11

December 2014

Complimentary copy

## False calls to 911 tying up dispatch

80,517 made in 2013

By Matt Heilman

Last year, more than 10 percent of Sedgwick County 911 calls proved to be non-emergency misdials. Including cases of children playing with phones, pocket dials and instances of mistaken emergency calls traced to old cell phones that still have batteries in them, dispatchers in Sedgwick County fielded 80,517 mistaken or abandoned cell phone calls last year.

The statistic highlights a problem that Laura Meyers of Sedgwick County Emergency Communications has shared with city leaders in the Wichita area. On Nov. 18, Meyers addressed the Bel Aire City Council.

She said the 80,517 abandoned emergency calls in 2013 equated to about 3,335 dispatch hours, time that dispatchers weren't able to speak with people calling to report actual emergencies.

"It's a problem that ties up dispatch even if emergency crews are not dispatched," Meyers said.

On Nov. 18, she shared advice for the

See 911, Page 2

## Momentum continuing in Sunflower Commerce

City sells more property

By Matt Heilman

The snowball effect in Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park is continuing. Since Century Manufacturing opened for business in 2012, interest in available lots in the 800-acre property has steadily increased and another real estate purchase agreement is keeping the momentum going.

Following a 40-minute executive session behind closed doors at its Nov. 18 meeting, the Bel Aire City Council unanimously approved a real estate purchase agreement with FCG Inc. The agreement includes about 3.5 acres for \$113,000. The property is located off of Industry Drive in the commerce park, southwest of 53rd North and Webb Road.

The 3.5 acres is directly west of the FedEx ground facility. The location is strategic for FCG.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said FCG Inc. has a mutual agreement with FedEx as the mechanic on the trucks for the worldwide distribution company.

The council also approved an addendum

See COMMERCE, Page 2

## NEXT LEVEL HOOPS OPENS WITH FANFARE

Facility to host youth volleyball and basketball training



Photos by Matt Heilman

A display in the lobby of the Next Level Hoops Academy honors Perez's playing career at Wichita State University in the late 1990s. Before coaching, Perez was a standout guard at WSU and professionally in Europe.

By Matt Heilman

Five years after the seed was planted, the flower has bloomed.

A project that has brought more diversity to Bel Aire's business community and another tenant to its commerce park, celebrated its grand opening Nov. 15 with a few hundred people in attendance.

The Next Level Hoops Academy hosted a ribbon-cutting and ceremony about seven months after ground broke on a 50,000 square-foot sports facility, known as the Fast Forward Premier Athletic Facility. The Next Level Hoops Academy, founded by former Wichita State University basketball player Jason Perez is one of two primary tenants of the facility, joined by the ICT Mavs Volleyball program.

The facility, located on six acres near 53rd North and Webb Road, includes six basketball courts and eight volleyball courts, along with a strength training facility and a pro shop.

The Nov. 15 grand opening for the facility featured six guest speakers including ICT Mavs head coach Beau Barnthson, volleyball coaching legend Alfred Agcaoili, Next Level Hoops Academy girls' head coach Gayla Soye, former WSU women's basketball coach and former WNBA general manager Linda Hargrove, Perez and ESPN SportsCenter anchor/ former Wichita sports broadcaster, Jonathan Coachman, who served as the event's keynote speaker.

In her speech, Soye, who also coaches the women's team at Friends University, spoke on the old saying that "it takes a village to raise a child."

"Now we have a village, a home to help



Next Level Hoops Academy co-owner Jason Perez listens as former college women's basketball coach and WNBA general manager Linda Hargrove speaks during the Nov. 15 grand opening.

these young girls to reach their potential," she said. "I'm thankful to be a part of it."

The Next Level Hoops Academy features more than 20 boys and girls' teams in different age groups that participate in league play as well as tournaments at the AAU level.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said Perez plans for the academy to host tournaments or showcases almost every weekend at the Fast Forward Premier Athletic Facility

next year.

The ICT Mavs, which has become one of the Midwest's top youth volleyball programs, also is planning to host several tournaments. The program began in Kansas City.

Last year, Barnthson said nine graduates from the program have moved on to compete at the NCAA Division I or Division II levels.

See HOOPS, Page 2

## Ranzau re-elected to county seat, tax defeated

By Matt Heilman

Voters in north Sedgwick County said "Yes" to incumbents and "No" to new taxes in heated mid-term election that yielded several close races at the national, state and local levels.

In the race for Sedgwick County Commission District 4, incumbent Richard

Ranzau breathed a sigh of relief when final results showed him hanging on for a 554-vote advantage with 100 percent of the district's precinct reported. Ranzau, a Republican, defeated Democratic challenger Melody McCray-Miller by a count of 12,021 votes to 11,467.

Ranzau trailed for most of election night before receiv-

ing a late push when votes came in from his supporters in District 4 communities outside of Wichita, including Valley Center.

"I knew it was going to be close and that turnout was going to be the issue," Ranzau said.

He said about 2,000 more Democrats, primarily in north Wichita, turned out to

vote this year than they had in 2010. He said the number supporting him was about the same as it was four years ago.

"We were behind for the whole night until the very end, so it's been a roller coaster," Ranzau said less than an hour after all of the precincts were reported. "We're very happy. We had a

lot of people work very, very hard since the first week in April."

Ranzau said he knew he'd be OK if he could compile 12,000 votes.

"That turned out just to be the case," he said.

Looking elsewhere in the county commission, a victory by Republican Jim Howell in District 5, representing south

Sedgwick County, is projected to shift the balance on the commission. Howell has expressed similar views on county issues as Ranzau and fellow commissioner Karl Peterjohn who have often voted in a slim minority over the last four years on the five-member commission.

See ELECTION, Page 2



# Work to do for election winners

Republicans across Kansas were given a reason to celebrate when final election results rolled in during the late evening hours of Nov. 4 into early Nov. 5. It's time to put the champagne back on ice. Soon, it will be time to get back to work.

After representatives at the local, state and national levels are sworn in after the New Year, we hope that they get back to it with the best interest of their constituents in mind. Most of the races were close, which tells us that there are many dissatisfied constituents out there.

Drowning out opposing views won't move our state forward. The Republican majority can be open-minded and considerate of differing ideas without having to fret over "caving to the opposition." We encourage our elected officials to listen to what people have to say from different perspectives and to make decisions based on what they genuinely feel is in the best interest of our state as a whole.

At the local level, we congratulate Sedgwick County District 4 Commissioner Richard Ranzau on winning his second four-year term. We appreciate his positions in support of guarded spending and looking out for taxpayers. However, the close race with Democrat Melody McCray-Miller shows that there is a variety of interest in this district, and nearly half of voters in District 4 felt it was time for a new face to represent them locally.

The majority of people in Sedgwick County, regardless of political party, are simultaneously for progress and a common-sense approach to spending. You can have both.

We want to see Ranzau seek common-sense approaches to job creation and growth. We'd like to see him take a step back and weigh the best long-term options for Sedgwick County, understanding that sometimes you have to give a little to get results. There are costs associated with encouraging business growth, costs that with thoughtful planning can yield a positive return on investment.

We want Ranzau and the other four commissioners to consider the potential long-term rewards and what's ultimately best for Sedgwick County beyond the next four years.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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Published monthly by Strunk Publishing LLC at P.O. Box 120, Valley Center, Kan. 67147. Publisher: Chris Strunk. Telephone: 316-755-0821. Fax: 316-755-0644. E-mail: [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com). The office is located at 210 W. Main, Valley Center, Kan.



Photos by Matt Heilman

The Next Level Hoops Academy was constructed in just over half of a year. The facility celebrated its grand opening Nov. 15, seven months after breaking ground.



Bel Aire Mayor David Austin greets the large crowd in attendance at the Nov. 15 grand opening ceremony. The facility for youth basketball and volleyball is the newest tenant in Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park.

## Commerce

Continued from Page 1

to a previously approved real estate purchase agreement for agriculturally-zoned property neighboring the commerce park.

The action taken on Nov. 18 followed the Nov. 15 grand opening of the Next Level Hoops Academy.

"It's exciting to see there's continued interest in our commerce park," council member Ken Lee said.

"It's a snowball," Mayor David Austin added.

- Also on Nov. 18, the council:
- Approved the revised city council meeting policy with amendments.
  - Approved the revised city council workshop policy with amendments.
  - Approved the annual contract with the Bel Aire Senior Center in the form of the Level 1 grant in the amount of \$18,000 between the City of Bel Aire and Sedgwick County.
  - Approved a \$92,352 bid from Mies Construction for a water main abandonment along Edgemoor from 45th to 41st Streets, utilizing the Kansas State Revolving Loan Water Fund.
  - Approved an ordinance to refinance debt in the city.
- All five council members and Mayor David Austin were present at the meeting.

## Hoops

Continued from Page 1

A similar level of success is expected to follow with the Next Level Hoops Academy in the years ahead. Perez started the academy in 2010, working with teams in different gyms throughout the Wichita area. After concluding his professional playing career overseas, he returned to Wichita in 2009 and began his coaching career.

Perez is a 2013 inductee into the Pizza Hut Shocker Sports Hall of Fame at WSU. He now co-owns the Next Level Hoops Academy with business partner Evan McCorry.

"The seed for this was planted five years ago when I started coaching a basketball team," Perez said at the April 18 groundbreaking for the Next Level Hoops Academy's permanent facility in Bel Aire. "The following year, I started the Next Level Hoops Academy. Now look what we got."

## Election

Continued from Page 1

Howell will take the seat of departing commissioner Jim Skelton who did not seek reelection.

Incumbent Dave Unruh retained his seat unopposed in District 1 of the commission to continue representing an area that includes Bel Aire and most of Kechi.

At the state level, incumbents ruled the day in local races. In House District 85, Republican Steve Brunk won convincingly against Democratic challenger Patrick Thorpe to continue representing an area that includes Benton, most of Bel Aire and part of Kechi and east Wichita.

In House Districts 90 and 91, incumbents Steve Huebert and Gene Suellentrop retained their seats unopposed in the general election. In District 90, Huebert represents an area that includes most of Valley Center, parts

of Park City, Sedgwick and Wichita and all of Andale, Bentley and Colwich. In District 91, Suellentrop represents an area that includes part of Park City, Kechi and Wichita.

## 911

Continued from Page 1

City of Bel Aire and other communities to pass on to residents.

She says the public needs to be aware that old cell phones no longer in use still have the capabilities to call 911 if the batteries aren't removed from them. She encouraged parents to keep cell phones away from young children and for people to lock their cell phones when they're not in use, reducing the chances of pocket dialing wrong numbers, including 911.

"Don't play around and lock it down," Meyers said.

Deadline for January: Dec. 19

[www.arkvalleynews.com](http://www.arkvalleynews.com)

# Bel Aire Breeze





# City of Bel Aire



## Bel Aire Recreation

**BOYS BASKETBALL 2015**  
Basketball is for boys ages 5-11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning Jan. 10, 2015. Practices will be set up by coaches on week-nights beginning the week of December 15. The registration deadline is December 6.

**YOUTH CHEERLEADING**  
For boys and girls ages 4 & up. These recreational cheer classes will focus on motions, jumps, and routines involved in cheerleading. Classes will be held on Monday evenings beginning Jan. 19, 2015. Space is limited and registration is required.

**BASKETBALL CAMP**  
For boys and girls ages 6 & up. Camp will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required.

**TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)**  
Classes meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays or from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

**YOGA**  
Classes are held from 6:10 to 7:10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time. Teens and adults can join at any time.

**FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)**  
The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass.

**A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.**  
**For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation programs call 744-2700**

## Bel Aire Seniors

*All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and library area are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.*

### Locations:

Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451  
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

### Weekly Events:

**Bel Aire Walkers** — M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled) Free for BA Senior members, alternate times available  
**Men’s Coffee & Fellowship** — Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center  
**Yoga** — Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)  
**Bridge Games** — Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center  
**Low Impact Aerobics** — Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center  
**Game Day** — Thursdays, 2-4 p.m. at the Rec Center  
**Braums Breakfast** — Fridays, 9 a.m. on North Rock Road

## Monthly & Special Events

*The Senior Center will host a Christmas light bus tour, complete with festive Christmas music, from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Dec. 9. Space is limited to 24 people, so make you reservations as early as possible. Cost is 10 per person and the money needs to be turn in no later than Dec. 1.*

**Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.** — Potluck dinner (meat provided), Community Room, “Bring Your Best Christmas Memory”

**Dec. 3, 10 a.m.** — Volunteer library work time at the Bel Aire Senior Center

**Dec. 5, 6 p.m.** — Pitch at the Bel Aire Senior Center

**Dec. 7** — Medicare open enrollment ends

**Dec. 9, 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.** — Christmas lights tour, \$10 a person, RSVP at 744-2451, x121

**Dec. 10, 10 a.m.** — Open sewing at the Bel Aire Senior Center

**Dec. 15, 6 p.m.** — Catered Christmas dinner and program at the Rec Center. No charge, reservations required, call 744-2650

**Dec. 16, 6 p.m.** — Ladies Dine Out. For information call Anita at 744-2840

**Dec. 17, 10:15 a.m.** — Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)


**Dec. 19, 6 p.m.** — Pitch at the Bel Aire Senior Center

## Community Events

**TOPS** — Tuesdays, 9 a.m., Bel Aire Senior Center  
**City Council meetings** — First and third Tuesday of each month  
**Dec. 9, 7 p.m.** — Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting in Community Room  
**Dec. 9, 7 p.m.** — Central Park HOA meeting at the Senior Center  
**Dec. 13, 2 p.m.** — Red Hats cheese, chocolate and cheer party. Call Anita for more information 744-2840  
**Dec. 24 through 26** — Bel Aire City Offices closed

## BEL AIRE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE


December 16th  
4:30 PM-6:30 PM  
Bel Aire City Hall (7651 East Central Park )  
Bel Aire, Kansas




The City of Bel Aire, City employees and City Council proudly presents  
**“Bel Aire Christmas Open House”**

Enjoy a night with Santa, including **punch/brownies/cookies** and **holiday music** on December 16th from **4:30-6:30 pm at City Hall!** Come celebrate Christmas with your City Employees, Mayor and City Council, **Tour City Hall** and share your thoughts on Bel Aire.


**Santa will be here 5:00 PM-6:30 PM.**





**Sponsored by**

City of Bel Aire and Bel Aire Lions Club




# City of Bel Aire launches new Bel Aire App!

Bel Aire city leaders are excited to announce the creation of a Bel Aire City App that can be downloaded to any smart phone.

In an effort to be more easily accessible to our citizens, the city has worked with My Community Mobile to create the City App.

More and more people uti-

lize their smart phones for directions, social media, news, contacts, etc.



**Android QR**

For this reason, the Bel Aire City Council felt it

was important to stay in touch with our citizens through their smart phones.

Here are some of the many functions of the City App:


- Contact info for Mayor, City Council and City Staff
- Location of City Parks and Recreation Center
- Report an Is-

sue

- School Locations and Contact Info
- Utility Information and Contact Info
- Shop & Dine Section
- Economic Development
- View Chamber members or current businesses and “Chamber Member of the Month”

The app is free

and can easily be downloaded from your app store or by following the links below:



**iTunes QR**

- <https://itunes.apple.com/nz/>

app/bel-aire-ks-official/

- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.belaire.city>

Once the page has been accessed via mobile devices, users need only press the “Download” or “Install” button and the app will begin downloading.



# POLICE REPORTS

**Nov. 19** — An officer responded to a report of two non-students walking across campus grounds at Sunrise Christian Academy in the 5500 block of East 45th North.

**Nov. 19** — Officer Roney responded to a report of possible fraud in the 6200 block of East Woodlow Drive.

**Nov. 19** — Officer Louks responded to a burglary report in the 6100 block of Edinburg. There was no burglary. A woman was in the process of moving.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 4800 block of North Rock Road. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Toomey took a report of a non-injury vehicle accident in the 4500 block of North Farmstead.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of North Rock Road. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Nov. 14** — Officer Elpers responded to a report of larceny in the 4200 block of North Lycee Court. A subject reported someone taking fence board from a construction site.

**Nov. 14** — Officer Elpers conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of East 37th North. A driver was cited for driving with an expired driver's license.

**Nov. 14** — Officers Elpers and Roney assisted Kechi police on a traffic stop at 61st North and Oliver after Kechi police were reported to be in trouble. Officers took two people into custody.

**Nov. 14** — Officer Steele conducted a traffic stop in the 5600 block of North Webb Road. A woman was cited for speeding and released. It was later discovered that she signed a different name to the bottom of the traffic citation. The case remained under investigation.

**Nov. 12** — An officer responded to a public accident in the 6500 block of East Rodeo. An elderly man fell while on a walk. The man was transported by private vehicle to receive treatment for an injury.

**Nov. 12** — An officer responded to a report of vandalism in the 4400 block of North Rushwood Court. A woman reported someone had rummaged through her vehicle and scratched a door handle.

**Nov. 12** — Officer Roney responded to a report of a stolen tag in the 4900 block of East Willow Point Court.

**Nov. 12** — Officer Roney responded to a report of a possible suicidal subject in the 4200 block of North Rushwood.

**Nov. 11** — Officer Roney conducted a traffic stop in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. A driver was cited for driving with an expired tag and no proof of liability insurance.

**Nov. 11** — Officer Elpers responded to a report of simple assault in the 4200 block of North Mission. The officer contacted a man who stated a former employee her fired had been threatening and harassing him.

**Nov. 10** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of East 37th North. A driver was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Nov. 9** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 4800 block of North Rock Road. A driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Nov. 9** — An officer responded to a non-injury vehicle accident in the 5600 block of East 45th North.

**Nov. 9** — Lt. Foxx responded to a report of found property in the 4400 block of North Eagle Lake Drive.

**Nov. 9** — An officer responded to a report of larceny in the 4700 block of North Prestwick Lane. The owner of Perfection Builders reported un-



Courtesy photo

## Making an 'impact'

**Bel Aire Police Officer Justin Camplin (center) stands with Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher and Bel Aire Police Chief Darrell Atteberry. On Nov. 25, Camplin received a Kansas DUI Impact coin from the Kansas DUI Impact Center in recognition of his efforts in enforcing DUI laws. Representatives from the Kansas DUI Impact Center also presented the Bel Aire Police Department with ribbons that serve as a symbolic reminder of DUI victims. The ribbons were affixed to the department's patrol vehicles. Atteberry said his officers also received gift bags from the Kansas DUI Impact Center.**

known person(s) removed a pallet of masonry stones from a worksite.

**Nov. 9** — An officer responded to a report involving a domestic disturbance in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor Court.

**Nov. 8** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 5300 block of North Rock Road. A driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

**Nov. 8** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 6400 block of East 45th North after observing a vehicle run a stop sign. A driver was cited for running the stop sign and driving with a suspended license.

**Nov. 8** — An officer responded to a non-injury vehicle accident at 37th North and Woodlawn.

**Nov. 7** — Officer Roney conducted a traffic stop in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. A driver was cited for driving with an illegal tag.

**Nov. 6** — Officer Roney stopped a vehicle driven by a female with a suspended license after leaving municipal court in the 7600 block of East Central Park Avenue. The woman's bond from a previous case was revoked and she was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

**Nov. 6** — Officer Roney responded to a possible fraud in the 6400 block of East Rodeo. A man received a false message claiming he from the IRS.

**Nov. 5** — Officer Roney responded to a call from a man who reported being in disagreement with a business in the 6200 block of East 37th North.

**Nov. 5** — Officer Roney responded to a report of a student eating a brownie laced with marijuana in the 5500 block of North Lycee Street. A female student was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana

and booked into the Juvenile Intake Assessment Center.

**Nov. 5** — An officer conducted a traffic stop in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Nov. 3** — An officer responded to a report of a lost handicap placard in the 6700 block of East 45th North.

**Nov. 3** — Bel Aire responded to a report of a possible sexual assault at the Catholic Care Center in the 6700 block of East 45th North. An officer spoke to the administrator and several other staff members.

**Nov. 2** — An officer responded to a larceny report in the 5500 block of North Lycee. A man reported a set of golf clubs and a leather coat were taken from his vehicle.

**Nov. 2** — Lt. Foxx checked for a wanted person in the 4400 block of Janesville. A subject was arrested on warrants through the cities of Bel Aire, Newton and Wichita.

**Nov. 1** — Officer Roney responded to a report of a reckless driver on East K-254 near Rock Road. A subject was stopped and arrested after being found in possession of a white powdery substance. The subject also appeared intoxicated. The subject was arrested on a charge of possession of cocaine.

**Oct. 31** — Officers responded to a burglary report in the 6700 block of East 45th North. A woman reported unknown person(s) entering a locked work area and forcing their way into an interior cabinet. Once inside, the thief or thief removed narcotics submitted for disposal.

**Oct. 31** — Officers Roney and Camplin responded to a report of a

missing juvenile in the 4300 block of North Rushwood Court. A child that hadn't been seen coming home from trick-or-treating was found asleep in his bed.

**Oct. 30** — An officer conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Oct. 30** — An officer responded to a report of larceny in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. A man reported that four political campaign signs were removed from his property.

**Oct. 30** — Officer Roney responded to assist USD 259 security staff at North East Magnet High School with four students that had reportedly consumed alcohol. The students were released to their parents.

**Oct. 29** — Officer Roney responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4300 block of North Edgemoor. A man stated he called 911 after his teenage daughter became upset with him.

**Oct. 28** — An officer conducted a traffic stop in the 6900 block of East 45th North. A driver was cited for speeding and not having possession of her drivers license.

**Oct. 28** — Officer Elpers confirmed a warrant in the 7900 block of East K-254. A woman was arrested on a Bel Aire warrant.

**Oct. 27** — Lt. Foxx responded to a non-injury vehicle accident in the 4600 block of North Woodlawn.

**Oct. 27** — Officer Camplin responded to a report of a non-injury vehicle accident in the 5500 block of East Prairie Hawk Lane. A truck reportedly hit a parked car.

**Oct. 27** — Officers responded to a parking violation in the 4500 block

North Westlake Court.

**Oct. 27** — Officer Elpers responded to a suspicious character report in the 4900 block of North Highland. The calling party reported seeing a suspect vehicle that had previously been tied to a case where a man tried to lure kids into his car by offering candy.

**Oct. 26** — Officer Camplin conducted a traffic stop in the 6300 block of East 45th North. A driver was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Oct. 26** — Lt. Foxx responded to a report of a found pit bull terrier in the 5900 block of East Denise. The dog was transported to the Wichita Animal Shelter.

**Oct. 26** — An officer responded to a larceny report in the 3800 block of North Oliver. A man reported someone entering his unlocked vehicle and taking a phone charger.

**Oct. 25** — Bel Aire and Kechi officers checked on a woman confirmed to have a Sedgwick County warrant in the 6600 block of East Rodeo. The woman was arrested on the warrant.

**Oct. 25** — Officer Elpers responded to a report of larceny in the 4800 block of Willow Point Court. A citizen reported someone taking her debit card.

**Oct. 25** — Officer Roney took a suspicious character report in the 4100 block of North Parkwood. A woman reported someone ringing her doorbell and leaving before she answered the door.

**Oct. 22** — Chief Atteberry responded to a report of a subject sleeping in a car in the 5200 block of North Rock Springs. A man said he pulled over to take a nap before school. The man was released and went to school.

# CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

## Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd Street North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Worship service is at 9 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 a.m. (traditional). Communion is offered at both services. Sunday School is at 10:15 a.m. For more information about the church and its activities, find the church online at [www.christ-lutheran.org](http://www.christ-lutheran.org) or call 744-1242. Pastor Chad Langdon is the minister.

## Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday, and at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school Website is [www.resurrectionwchita.com](http://www.resurrectionwchita.com), and the telephone number is 744-2776. The Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

## Community Bible Chapel

Community Bible Chapel is located at the corner of 45th North and Arlene. Please call Amy Smith at 316-323-2819 with any questions.

## Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church welcomes a new minister, the Rev. Larry Young.

Visit the newly renovated building at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita, one block south and one block east of Hillside and 17th North.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. which includes children's church. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at [www.fairmountucc.org](http://www.fairmountucc.org).

## Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Prayer service is at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities.

Phone number is 744-1502, and The Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

## Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m., with fellowship and coffee afterward.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

Senior Day is at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month.

United Methodist Women meet at 1 p.m. the first Thursday of each month.

Movie night is at 6:30 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. A snack is served.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road. The phone number is 744-0203.

## Kechi United Methodist Church

You are invited to worship at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary service) or 11:00 a.m. (traditional service) Sundays at Kechi United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi.

All sixth- through 12th-grade youth are invited to the church at 4 p.m. Sundays for youth group.

CareGivers Support group meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month in the basement parlor. Bingo is at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Find us at [www.KechiUMC.org](http://www.KechiUMC.org) and "Like" us on Facebook. Pastor Mitch can be contacted at [Mitch@kechiumpc.org](mailto:Mitch@kechiumpc.org) or by calling 744-1221.

## LifePoint Church

A fellowship of the Assemblies of God, LifePoint is located at 400 S. Abilene, Valley Center.

Sunday worship service and Kids Church are at 10:30 a.m., and Life University/Sunday school for all ages is at 9 a.m. No regular Sunday night service. For special activities, see the Website at [www.lpcag.org](http://www.lpcag.org).

Wednesday evening is the Launch children's program at 6:30 p.m. Velocity Student Ministries for youth meets at 6:30 p.m.

Adult small groups meet throughout

the community.

Senior pastor is Steve Rains. Youth pastor is Jacob Soyez. Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman. The phone number is 755-2331.

## Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services are at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion is the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday School and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m., with children's church at 10:30. A nursery is provided during Bible class and second service.

Their are two weekly sessions of Lifetree Café in Valley Center: Thursday at 1 p.m., with Lunch at noon, at the Community Building, 316 E. Clay, and Sunday at 5 p.m. at the home of Pastor Terry and Barb Wiechman, 1241 S. Park Ave. Lifetree Café is a "conversation café" — a place and time for people to gather weekly to experience stories and talk about thought-provoking topics relating to life and faith.

Wednesday Evening Ministries is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There are activities for all ages. A nursery will be available for preschool age children. King's Kids is for children in K through fifth grade. Confirmation class is for children in grades six through eight. IMPACT! is for grades nine through 12. There will also be adult Bible classes available.

Risen Savior Preschool classes for 3- to 5-year-olds are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11:45 a.m. Enrollment forms and information are available at the church office. Please contact Michelle Peshek, Director/Lead Teacher, with questions at [michellep@risensavior.net](mailto:michellep@risensavior.net) or call the church office at 683-5538.

The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number

is 683-5538 and the Website is [www.risensaviorwchita.net](http://www.risensaviorwchita.net).

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon.

## St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is located at 2710 E. 61st North, Park City, KS 67219. It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. "...the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch." (Acts 11:26)

Saint Michael is a western rite congregation using the Liturgy of Saint Gregory. It is the only western rite Orthodox Church in the state of Kansas. Join us for our worship of the Holy Trinity using the ancient and beautiful liturgy of the Undivided Church.

Sunday at 9 a.m. is our adult class, "Jesus: The Man, the Message and the Meaning" Service of Matins is at 9:45 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m. Nursery service is provided.

Wednesday our service is at 6 p.m. Saturday Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Men's Study Group is the first and

third Monday at 7 p.m. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

Women's Study Group is the second and fourth Friday at 10 a.m. We are studying the book, "God's Path to Sanity: Lessons from Ancient Holy Counselors on How to have a Sound Mind."

You are invited to a directed reading of "The Divine Comedy" of Dante Alighieri on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Our presenter is Stan Cox. For more information contact him at 316-648-1678 or email him at [latin8@cox.net](mailto:latin8@cox.net) This program is open to the public. Please join us for a study of one of the greatest spiritual classics in the Western Christian tradition.

Potluck Supper and Program are on the first and third Wednesdays with Liturgy 6 p.m., Potluck Supper 6:45 p.m., Program 7:30 p.m. This fall our program is on the Epistle to the Ephesians titled, The Full Armour of God: An introduction to the Orthodox Church's teaching on

Satan, the demons and Spiritual Warfare.

Call the church at 734-6248 for more information or visit its Website at [www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com](http://www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com).

Send email inquiries to [jlfora@cox.net](mailto:jlfora@cox.net).

## Wichita Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Church

The church is located at 4558 N. Hydraulic Wichita, KS 67219.

The pastor is Nathan Stearman. The Sabbath school is at 9:30 a.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m.

For more information find us at [www.godscloset.com](http://www.godscloset.com), on Facebook, email [eric@godscloset.com](mailto:eric@godscloset.com), or call 530-1040.

*Send your church's upcoming events and service times to [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com) or call 755-0821.*

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# Street repairs to continue despite defeat of sales tax

By Matt Heilman

Sales tax rates in Wichita, Bel Aire and Valley Center will remain the same.

Voters in the Nov. 4 election defeated initiatives to increase sales tax in those three Sedgwick County cities.

In Valley Center, “No” votes outpaced “Yes” votes 55 percent to 44 percent (1,263 to 1,000, according to the Sedgwick County Election Office).

The tax was proposed by the city council to be used for major street improvements across Valley Center, including Meridian in the south part of the city. City leaders said they wanted to give residents a funding option for the projects, instead of strictly using property taxes. It’s unclear how the city will

move forward with the projects city officials have identified as priorities.

The vote was just as close in Bel Aire, with 1,527 saying “No” and 1,222 saying “Yes” (55 percent to 44 percent).

Like Valley Center, the tax revenue would have been used for street repairs.

Wichita voters overwhelmingly struck down the sales tax, 62 percent to 37 percent. It was targeted for water supply infrastructure, transportation and job creation.

A sales tax initiative in Andover also was defeated, 53 percent to 47 percent.

The “No” vote in Bel Aire isn’t a roadblock for long-anticipated street reconstruction projects, city leaders say.

Last year, the Bel Aire City Council approved a \$1.1-million

temporary note for 2014 to tackle four main projects that were identified as priorities in a city-conducted public survey.

The replacement of 45th Street from Webb to half a mile west has already been completed. The other three projects covered in the temporary note include the replacement of Gunnison Street from Flagstaff to Clarendon, the replacement of Edgemoor from 41st Street North to 45th Street North and paving work with slurry seal on a two-mile stretch of Woodlawn from 37th North to 53rd North.

The city said all revenues from the proposed 1-cent sales tax would have gone directly to the street fund to help pay the debt service on the projects already underway as well as additional improvements down the road.

Bel Aire Finance Director Michelle Meyer said the sales tax could have provided approximately \$250,000 per year to the city over the next 10 years.

However, she expressed that raising property taxes is not an option being considered as an alternative funding source to the projected sales tax revenue.

The 2015 budget was approved in August with a property tax mill levy consistent with the 2014 mark.

“We won’t have to roll (the temporary note) into a bond until 2017,” Meyer said. “What we’ll probably be doing is transferring from the general fund (to the street fund).”

Bel Aire Mayor David Austin pointed out that even if the question of the 1-percent sales tax had passed in the Nov.

4 election, the city council would have had the final say on whether the tax would actually be implemented.

While the sales tax could have allowed the city to get more work done faster with street repairs, Meyer and City Manager Ty Lasher have shared that budget projections for the next few years have the city in well enough shape to work within the broad spectrum of its general fund. There may also be options to obtain grant money from the Kansas Department of Transportation, Meyer said.

Land sales have brightened future budget projections.

Last week, the City of Bel Aire was able to pay off more than \$900,000 of the principal owed on approximately 1,600 acres of undeveloped land in the city. At one point about

three years ago, the city’s total land debt approached \$20 million.

The land payment made last week saves the city an additional \$50,000 in annual interest owed on the principal of its debt.

On Nov. 4, the city approved a purchase agreement for the sale of 76 acres of agriculturally zoned property near 53rd North and Greenwich. Meyer said the revenue from the sale goes toward paying off more of the principal on the city’s land debt.

Each land sale also puts Bel Aire a step closer toward its goal of covering improvements to the city’s infrastructure and streets without relying as heavily on debt service.

“The more land we sell, the more that will help,” Meyer said.

# Bel Aire continues to manage land debt

By Matt Heilman

During its first meeting of November, the Bel Aire City Council approved a real estate purchase agreement for a nearly 80-acre piece of property and approved spending that is ultimately designed to help the city toward its long-term debt solution. The first action taken by the council at its Nov. 4 meeting was the approval of an appropriations ordinance in the amount of \$2,608,086.85. More than \$900,000 of the allocated spending is meant to pay off another chunk of the principal owed on the city’s land debt, which approached \$20 million a few years ago.

The city has been able to develop a long-term, manageable plan for paying off the debt due to a mix of savings, land sales, new businesses and home starts. The past couple of years have particularly improved for Bel Aire in the city’s 800-acre Sunflower Commerce Park, which primarily runs along 53rd North between Webb and Greenwich Roads.

The Next Level Hoops Academy, the commerce park’s newest tenant, held its

grand opening Nov. 15. With construction continuing on three-to-15-acre tracts in the first 155 acres of Phase I of the commerce park, Bel Aire is preparing to make larger tracts up to 40 acres available in Phase II of the commerce park. Phase II is generally located on the north side of 53rd Street between Webb and Greenwich, with Phase I on the south side of 53rd.

On Nov. 4, the council accepted a \$12,000 proposal from Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) for platting and a storm water management study for Phase II of the Sunflower Commerce Park.

Following a closed executive session toward the end of its Nov. 4 meeting, the council approved the real estate purchase agreement with Wassim Real Estate, LLC for 76 acres located near the commerce park, just east of 53rd North and Greenwich. Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the purchase agreement should be finalized by February.

Bel Aire City Council member Peggy O’Donnell said

the interested buyer of the 76 acres is Wichita cardiologist, Dr. Wassim Shaheen. Lasher said Shaheen is interested in the property as an investment and hasn’t shared any plans for development.

Also on Nov. 4, the council:

- Heard from Mayor David Austin who proclaimed Nov. 11 as Veterans Day in Bel Aire.

- Approved spending \$25,882 available in the police department’s budget for a new Dodge Charger patrol vehicle.

- Approved the revised pricing list of city land marketed by John T. Arnold.

- Approved a change order with Kansas Paving for the installation of rip-rap on three-planed end sections in the Tierra Verde development.

- Approved an ordinance authorizing the sale of property under a lease between Bel Aire and the city’s public building commission. The land involved in the ordinance is approximately 6.8 acres planned for future expansion of the Next Level Hoops Academy.



Courtesy photo

## Pavilion’s path

The Bel Aire Lions Club is continuing progress on the pavilion being constructed near the playing fields at the Bel Aire Rec Center. The concrete slab for the structure and a sidewalk have been completed. In the next couple of weeks, plans call for support columns and roof beams to be installed. The pavilion, donated to the city from the Lions Club, is scheduled for completion in early 2015.

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National Honor Society inductees

On Nov. 12, the National Honor Society at Sunrise Christian Academy inducted four new members, bringing the total NHS participation at the school to 25. Taking part in the induction ceremony were (from left) Bel Aire Police Chief Darrell Atteberry, Sunrise superintendent Dr. Robert Lindstedt, NHS inductees, Abigail Reed, Chloe Demitras, Chad Armstrong and Dainan Swoope, and Sunrise principals Mary Jane Campbell and Peggy O'Donnell. As the guest speaker for the ceremony, Atteberry spoke about the four pillars of the National Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character. He also shared some insights on being a good citizen.

Courtesy photo

DEATHS

**HELEN COX**  
Helen Frances Cox, 94, of Rose Hill, died Nov. 6, 2014. She was a homemaker.  
She was preceded in death by her parents, Edna and Roy Rickards Sr.; daughter, Kathleen Lane; brother, Don Rickards; and sister, Lois Dorr. Survivors include her husband, Victor; son, Stan (Jan), of Leon; daughters, Barbara Schrag (Dave), of Rose Hill, and Beth McDonnell (Dick), of Verona, Wisconsin; brother, Roy Rickards, of Bel Aire; 13 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.  
Visitation was Nov. 9 at Smith Mortuary in Derby, and funeral service was Nov. 10 at Rose Hill Friends Church. Memorial donations may be made to the Rose Hill Friends Church, 14062 SW 180th, Rose Hill, KS 67133.

**DOROTHY JAKUES**  
Dorothy Jaques, 93, retired kitchen supervisor at Central Christian Church and New Song Academy, died Oct. 22, 2014.  
She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Bessie Stockburger, and three brothers. Survivors include her daughters, Karen Dinger, of Downers Grove, Illinois, and Nancy Hansen, of Bel Aire; sons, John C. Jaques, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and Richard L. Jaques, of Norman, Oklahoma; sisters, Cassandra N. Stockburger, of New York, and Katherine A. Stockburger, of Cleveland, Tennessee; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.  
Visitation with the family was Oct. 24 at Downing & Lahey Mortuary East. Funeral service was Oct. 25 at Grace Presbyterian Church. A memorial was established with Samaritan's Purse, P.O.

Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607- 3000.

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